

DOUBLE NUMBER.

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

—Francis Thompson.

A Lesson from South America.

BY ISABEL WILLIS.

The other day I happened to see a picture which impressed me very much. It represented a great range of snowy mountains, gloomy and savage-looking. Almost at the summit there was a sort of plateau, and on this plateau there stood a tall figure holding in one hand a cross, and with the other raised as though in blessing. That was all, but the whole effect was most striking, and I wondered what it meant. Underneath was the title of the picture, "The Christ of the Andes," and the explanation is given in a little pamphlet by Professor Gilbert Murray. I found it extraordinarily interesting, and as it was new to me, I think it may perhaps be new also to many readers of the *Catholic Citizen*, and that they may find it as interesting as I have done.

He begins by a description of the picture in these words: "In the Andes, at the highest point on the frontier dividing Chile from the Argentine, 13,000 feet above the sea, stands a colossal bronze figure of Christ. The right hand is stretched out in blessing; the left holds a cross. Beneath it is written: "These mountains themselves shall fall and crumble to dust before the people of Chile and the Argentine Republic forget their solemn covenant sworn at the feet of Christ." On the other side is written: "He is our peace Who hath made both one."

The Professor then gives the story of the origin of this solemn covenant between the two peoples. He reminds us that during the latter half of the nineteenth century there were incessant wars among the South Ameri-

can Republics. "War nourished hatred, and hatred engendered fresh war." (We in Europe understand only too well how these two evil things do engender each other.) It so happened, however, that between the Argentine Republic and Chile, there had never been actual war; but there had been a long-standing dispute about some frontier territories. This dispute came to an acute stage in the year 1899, and both countries prepared for war. Armaments were amassed, warships were laid down, taxes increased and increased. Before Easter, 1900, the two nations stood poised on the brink of war. Holy Week came, and both sides celebrated its solemn events with all devotion and reverence. On Easter Sunday, Mgr. Benavente, a bishop of the Argentines, preached at Buenos Ayres. But this sermon was no ordinary one; it was a passionate appeal for peace in the name of Christ. The people were powerfully affected by it, and a report of it reached across to Chile, and a Chilean bishop took up the message. The two bishops set out, each in his own country, going from town to town and village to village, preaching peace and reconciliation. At first their only supporters were the women and the priests, but soon the men followed. Then crowds came. Peasants flocked in from remote places, and the whole country awoke. At last, under pressure of petitions from every part of the community, the two Governments were obliged to take steps to consider the establishment of a permanent peace. The frontier question, which had been

referred to the arbitration of Queen Victoria, but not settled, was adjudicated without further delay by King Edward, and the disputed territories were divided. Finally, urged by the will of the two peoples, their Governments concluded in 1902 an unconditional treaty of arbitration, by which they bound themselves for a period of five years to submit all differences to arbitration, and agreed to a partial disbandment of armies and warships.

Since that time the two Republics have signed arbitration treaties with other powers; their armies are now reduced to the numbers needed for police; their warships sold or converted into merchantmen. The grand arsenal of Chile has been made a great technical school, and the money thus saved is devoted to public works, railways, and housing schemes. But most important of all is the change in the attitude of the two nations to each other—from exasperation to trust and good will. They have tried the pacifist experiment and made it a success. The preacher whose eloquent words had prevented war in 1900, had expressed a hope that some day Christ might be seen standing over two reconciled peoples, and the hope has been fulfilled. The guns of the frontier fortresses, now no longer needed; were taken down and melted in the arsenal of Buenos Ayres, and cast into a great bronze figure of Christ. The Government itself undertook to carry it up 13,000 feet to the mountain top. It was taken by train as far as the rails were laid, and then drawn on gun-carriages by mules, and where even mules failed at the steepness of the ascent, soldiers and sailors dragged it up with ropes. On March 13, 1904, it was dedicated to the world in the presence of vast crowds of civilians and soldiers from either side of the frontier: the Argentine soldiers encamping, by invitation, on the Chilian side, and the Chilians on the Argentine side. Martial music and the thunder of guns proclaimed the inauguration of the law of peace. The statue was unveiled in profound silence, and at sunset the two peoples fell to prayer together for the peace of the world.

Thus far I have been quoting the words of Professor Gilbert Murray, and I am making use of them to enforce a few of my own, urging upon all Catholic

citizens the claim made by the League of Nations' Union on their whole-hearted support, though if the example set by these two South American nations does not serve as a sufficient object lesson, it seems scarcely likely that anything I can say will have much effect. Surely, if we only reflect a little we must realise that the only certain way in which the great aim of the League can be attained, is by raising it into the religious, spiritual sphere. It is good-will amongst nations that is wanted, and such a hearty form of good-will as arises from a clear understanding of the teaching of Our Lord as to our brotherhood with each other. The League will be powerful if we choose to make it so, and there can scarcely be a more thoroughly holy work for Catholics to undertake. People may find fault with one point or another in the mechanism of the League, but what we should make our concern is the ideal behind its outward form. Cardinal Bourne reminded us of this in an eloquent appeal issued four years ago, but as necessary to-day as it was then. "Every Catholic when he is tempted to criticise and find fault," His Eminence said, "should rather go down on his knees and beg of Almighty God to draw out of this imperfect instrument something more perfect, something which will realise better His own divine purpose. If the late war is to be indeed the last war, this can only be brought about by some such instrument as the League of Nations, and it is for us to make that League of Nations a useful instrument for the purpose for which it has been set up. We pray day by day in the Mass for peace, and we have to recollect that there is no peace except the peace which Almighty God can give."

In our own country the League of Nations' Union exists to organise that public opinion without which, in a democratic country such as ours, Government can do nothing. As Lord Cecil finely said: "The action of Governments can create a body; the will of the nations must give it a living soul."

Why should not the Catholics of our own country be as ardent and zealous in working for a world-peace as those of Chile and the Argentine have been with regard to themselves? We may not show our zeal in the same dramatic manner—that would not come

(Continued on next page.)

Notes and Comments.

We remind our readers that the new Parliamentary Register is now being compiled, and any persons entitled to vote must see that their names are entered on the Register without delay.

The Lists of Electors containing new names for the autumn register, are published on July 15. Readers should examine these lists and see whether their names are included, and if not, they must send in their claims. The last day for receiving claims is August 11. Claim forms can be had on application to the Registration Officer of the district.

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We sincerely hope that before the next General Election, equal franchise will be the law of the land. The Bill has passed safely through Committee, and the Government have definitely promised to take charge of the Bill and do what they can to place it on the Statute Book. We hope that before long they will have achieved this, and the great struggle for suffrage be ended.

* * * *

The *Shield* of March—April contains, amongst other important articles, an article on "Women's Courts in New York," which is of particular interest. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene issues a memorandum on these Courts, giving the objections to the establishment of any such Courts in London, for which some people have been pressing, and to which the A.M.S.H. will offer every opposition in their power. We have no doubt that the A.M.S.H. will have the full support of the women societies in this.

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We have received the Annual Report of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which gives an interesting record of the innumerable activities of the N.U.S.E.C., and of the Union's unflagging zeal in the campaign for equal citizenship.

* * * *

The women's societies, including St. Joan's S.P.A. have been protesting against the conditions prevailing amongst the waitresses and cloakroom attendants at Wembley. As a committee is enquiring into the matter,

no more can be done for the moment, but we sincerely hope that these conditions will be improved. Miss Jewson, M.P., in an article in *The Vote*, entitled "The Curse of Tipping," makes a plea for a living wage for workers instead of a pittance to be supplemented by gratuities. She says, very truly, that no system could be more unfair to the worker.

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The fourth International Democratic Congress for Peace will be held in London from the 16th to 20th of September. The questions to be discussed include: the political, social and moral problems of peace, and international co-operation. St. Joan's S.P.A. is supporting the Congress.

The Congress will be opened on the 16th by Mr. Marc Sangier, President of the Committee.

* * * *

We offer our deep sympathy to our member, Miss Moclair, on the death of her father. We ask our readers to pray for the repose of his soul.—R.I.P.

Women's International Housing Congress.

Eighteen countries, including America and the British Overseas Dominions, have been invited to send representatives to the Women's International Housing Congress, convened by the National Housing and Town Planning Council, to be held at Caxton Hall, July 16—18. Councillor Mrs. Crawford will represent St. Joan's S.P.A. There will be a mass Demonstration at the Queen's Hall on July 17, organised by the Women's Housing Councils' Federation. Lady Astor, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, will be among the speakers.

A Lesson from South America. (Continued from previous page.)

naturally to our calmer temperament—but the whole-hearted determination to abolish war as a means of settling disputes might animate us all the same and set us working practically and steadily.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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The Government and the Guardianship of Infants.

The Government's Guardianship of Infants' Bill, introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Haldane, is a disappointment to women. Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, which the new Bill replaces, was definitely an equal guardianship Bill giving the mother equal rights and responsibilities as the father, with respect to legitimate children. The Labour Government is pledged to equality between the sexes, but the Bill they have produced is not an equal guardianship Bill. The preamble of the Bill does indeed say that: "Whereas Parliament by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, and various other enactments, has sought to establish equality in law between the sexes, and it is expedient that this principle should obtain with respect to the guardianship of infants, etc."

None the less, we will not pretend to believe that the Bill does actually confer on the mother equal rights and responsibilities in the home, for we can find no suggestion of the kind in the Bill. Lawyers, and those whose business it is to administer the Law, are frankly afraid of equal guardianship, and the Government have caught their fear. No more, it is said, can be wrung from the Government at present than this Bill contains. The question before the women societies since the Bill was published, has been whether or no it was worth supporting. The N.U.S.E.C., which has worked so untiringly to obtain equal guardianship, came to the conclusion that the Bill is far too valuable to reject.

Many societies, including St. Joan's S.P.A., have also come to the same conclusion, for the Government Bill, with all its deficiencies, will bring very great relief, and a sense of security, where her children are concerned, to many a mother. In the first place the Bill does give equality to the parents when any question, concerning the custody, upbringing, or property, of children of a marriage, is brought into Court. In this case the child's welfare alone is to be considered, irrespective of any claim of the father, or any right at common law possessed by the father. The mother will have the same right to apply to the Courts as the father. In the second place, it allows such cases to be brought before Courts of summary jurisdiction instead of, as at present, before Chancery or County Courts only. In the third place, it allows a woman to obtain an order for custody and maintenance while still living with her husband, and although the order cannot be enforced until after she has left the home, yet the possession of such an order will give the wife a certain hold over the father, and, in any case, the assurance if she does have to leave her home, that she has already the Court's order for custody and maintenance.

Another very important right which this Bill will confer on the mother is an equal right with the father to appoint a guardian after death. This is a right to which many women will attach great value.

We are glad to see that Lord Fitzalan has put down an amendment to provide that pre-nuptial promises between parents with regard to the religious upbringing of their children, shall be honoured in Court.

Under all the circumstances, the Executive Committee of St. Joan's S.P.A., while hoping that the Bill may yet be improved, have come to the conclusion that it contains reforms which women cannot afford to reject. The fact that Mrs. Wintringham and others who have worked so hard for equal guardianship appeal to women not to reject the Government Bill should go far, and in our own case has gone far, to allay the fears that the Bill will set back the cause of equality. Provided women make it clear that they do not consider the Bill an equal guardianship Bill, and that the campaign for equality continues, we believe that the Bill will facilitate the attainment of full equality before long.

Women's Week at Wembley.

July 21st to July 26th.

Under the auspices of the Women's Section of the British Empire Exhibition, a Women's Week, specially devoted to the interests of Women in the Dominions, is to take place at Wembley during the fourth week of July. Each of the Dominions has arranged a programme for one day of the week, and the meetings are thrown open to the public by ticket.

The morning Conferences will be held in Conference Hall No. 1, at the west end of the Palace of Industry, and the speakers will be prominent women from the particular Dominion.

Monday is New Zealand's day; Tuesday, South Africa; Wednesday, Australia; Thursday, Canada; Friday, the Indian Empire; Saturday, 2-30 to 4 p.m., is Newfoundland's day.

St. Joan's S.P.A. has promised to help on Newfoundland's day. Free tickets admitting to the conference and cinema entertainment may be had at the Office, 55 Berners Street, W. 1. We hope our readers will take a special interest in Newfoundland's day. The principal speaker will be Lady Morris. H.H. Princess Marie Louise has kindly consented to be present.

A Missionary's View of the Influence of Women.

In an interview granted to "El Mercurio" (Santiago de Chile), Father Guido de Ramberga, of the Capuchin mission to the *Araucanians*, that is to the native Indian people of Chile, shows that the education of women is the most important part of missionary work. After praising the Araucanian women's fine qualities and describing their frequent sufferings as slaves to their husbands, to whom their fathers sell them, Father de Ramberga says: "It is the Araucanian women who best exercise a civilizing influence on their tribe and race. . . The work done in the schools for the men has a most limited usefulness, while there is no girls' school. The youth who leaves these schools marries an entirely uneducated girl, ignorant of the very rudiments of civilised life. . . While Indian women are not educated, the civilised Indian will lack the moral and religious support necessary to the preservation of school influences, necessary to keep him from relapsing, as he sometimes does, into barbarism. . . And what can be hoped of the Araucanian boy whose mother is still plunged in the dreams of ignorance and the absurdities of superstition? A well educated woman is in herself a little school."

Arguing thus entirely from the point of view of men, Father de Ramberga asks for funds to found a boarding school for *Araucanian* girls.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 91 Bedford St, Liverpool.

The fourth meeting of the Branch was held on June 23rd, at 10 Percy Street, by kind invitation of our member, Mrs. Graham. Miss Eskrigge M.A., Hon. Sec. of the Liverpool Women Citizen's Association, opened an interesting discussion on "Equal Guardianship of Infants," and our only regret was that there were so few present to hear her, owing partly to the glorious weather, and partly to a big meeting at the Picton Hall.

The Committee have decided to hold no further meetings until September when it is hoped to raise funds by some kind of social activity.

We ask our members to pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Henry McArdle, lately dead. She was one of the earliest members of our branch.—R.I.P.

International Notes.

Our admirable Swiss contemporary, the *Mouvement Féministe*, has some very apposite remarks on the curious anomaly that whereas Belgian Socialists are opposing Woman Suffrage because they believe the women's vote will be clerical, many people in Switzerland oppose it because they fear it will be Bolshevist! The truth is that, as our contemporary points out, "the suffrage movement is quite apart from and above party. It represents the aspirations of women of all classes and of very diverse mentality, and they all seek it in order that their special interests—moral, social, political and legal—may be directly represented; but when once they enjoy it they will feel absolutely free to vote just as their sympathies and affinities inspire them."

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The National Church of the Canton of Basle is governed by a Synod and Parochial Councils, and for the first time in May last, women offered themselves as candidates at the elections. The results were, on the whole, satisfactory, nine women (out of twenty candidates) being elected to the Synod, and twenty-eight to the Councils. We note, further, that for the first time in French-speaking Switzerland, a woman, Melle L. von Auw, has been granted a theological degree by the Free Church of the Canton of Vaud.

* * * *

Although we have received no actual information on the subject since the Nationalist-Labour victory in South Africa, there is much reason to fear that the electoral result will mean a serious setback to the Suffrage movement. The Nationalists, as a party, are definitely opposed to Woman Suffrage, and though the Labour Party is nominally in favour of it, it has shown itself, in practice, regrettably lukewarm.

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La Française reports that M. Herriot is a strong Feminist, so, too, is M. Justin Godart, a member of his Cabinet. On the other hand women had a firm friend in M. Henri de Jouvenel, Minister of Public Instruction in M. Poincaré's re-constituted Cabinet. His short term of office will always

be gratefully remembered by women, as he found time to throw open all examinations for diplomas connected with secondary teaching to girl students on precisely the same terms as to men.

* * * *

American women are naturally determined to take an active share in the approaching Presidential election. The Woman's Party, so we read in *Equal Rights*, is summoning all its members to a great election conference in August, at which the policy of the Party, in view of the Presidential campaign, will be discussed and decided on.

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Dr. Margerete Stegman, a distinguished German woman doctor recently elected to the Reichstag, has expressed herself very definitely on the subject of "protective" legislation. "The so-called 'protective' laws applying to women but not to men," she writes, "are merely restrictive laws for women, and are unworthy of liberated and self-conscious citizens of any free land. This is the point of view, I think, of all the progressive women leaders in Germany."

* * * *

Unfortunately only 28 women have been elected to the Reichstag, whereas there were 34 in the last Parliament. We read in the *International Woman Suffrage News* that 20 women of the Centre Party stood and four were elected, one of these being Fräulein Hedwig Drausfield, President of the Catholic Women's Union, and Editor of the *Christliche Frau*.

V. M. C.

I.W.S.A. Garden Party.

By kind permission of Mrs. Adrian Corbett, the British Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A. gave a garden party and sale of work at Pembroke Lodge, S.W., on July 2. The sale was opened by Lady Guggisberg. The weather was perfect, and the whole function, with its singing, dancing, tennis, and other pleasures, was most enjoyable.

Our stall realised in all the sum of £10. We offer our sincere thanks to Miss Fedden, who was in charge of the stall, and to all who sent gifts and donations.

The History of Woman Suffrage.

We have received from the National American Woman Suffrage Association the last two volumes of the History of Woman Suffrage, on which Mrs. Ida Husted Harper has been engaged for several years past. The first three of the series of six volumes were prepared by Miss Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the late '70's and early '80's, and covered what might be called "the woman movement" from the beginning of that century. Miss Anthony and Mrs. Harper wrote the Fourth volume, which carried the story to the beginning of the present century. Mrs. Harper has now prepared the history of the years from 1900 to 1920, when the Amendment to the Federal Constitution was adopted which gave complete, universal suffrage to the women of the United States.

Volume V contains the history of the work for this Federal Amendment during the twenty years by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the bulwark of the movement from its organization in 1869 through the next fifty years. The full story of the long struggle is given besides in compact form in Chapter XX, and is valuable for reference.

This volume contains also accounts of other suffrage associations and the assistance they rendered, and includes sketches of the Anti-Suffrage organizations of men and women. One chapter shows the efforts made to obtain from the National Presidential Conventions a plank in their platforms endorsing first, woman suffrage, and later, a Federal Amendment, beginning in 1868, and not successful until 1916 and 1920, with the record of the various political parties clearly set forth.

A chapter is devoted to the National League of Women Voters, into which the suffrage societies were merged after the franchise was gained. This volume closes with a chapter on the War Work of Organized Suffragists during the recent conflict, which completely refutes the charges made by opponents that they were pacifists, pro-Germans, and put woman suffrage before service to their country.

Volume VI takes up the work for woman suffrage by the individual States, first, for

the amendment of their own constitutions, and second, through assisting the National Association in its effort for an amendment of the Federal Constitution. A chapter is devoted to each State, relating its work with the Legislature, its campaigns, failures and successes, with the names of the principal workers. This part of the story is followed by an account of the work to enfranchise the women of the Territories and possessions of the United States.

A long and interesting chapter, written by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Leader of the woman suffrage movement in Great Britain for fifty years, gives a comprehensive account of the struggle in this country for the enfranchisement of women. It is followed by a chapter telling of the effort in each of the British colonies and its success in all but South Africa and Newfoundland. A long chapter is devoted to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and its world-wide campaign. An important chapter describes the gaining of woman suffrage in most of the countries of Europe—in many of them as the result of the late war—and the progress of the feminist movement in all other civilised countries.

As the biographer of Susan B. Anthony and author with her of Volume IV of the History of Woman Suffrage, it seemed advisable to Mrs. Catt, president, and the other officers of the National Association, that Mrs. Harper should prepare these concluding volumes. Because of the vast spread of the movement in recent years, the task has required more than twice the time anticipated. The writer has had two especial objects in view—that the principal features of the world-wide movement for woman suffrage should be found in these volumes, and that the information should be as trustworthy as it was possible to make it. Students of this great question will find in them authoritative information on its many phases. They contain 75 pages of indexes of subjects and proper names, particular care being taken to preserve the names of those who devoted themselves to a cause which until recent years required courage of a high order.

A great debt of gratitude is due to Mrs. Harper for this monumental work on a movement which has no parallel in modern times.

World Labour Conference at Work.

Over 120 representatives from 39 States, with about 150 advisers, settled down to solid work in studying certain world labour problems at Geneva. They were attending the sixth annual Session of the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations which opened there on Monday, June 16.

One of the gratifying features of this year's Conference is the increasing number of countries which are sending complete delegations. By the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, each country is entitled to send four delegates, two representing the Government and one each the employers and workers, but a number of States, partly owing to the expense, have in the past been represented by Government delegates alone. This course must obviously be a handicap to the full effectiveness of the Conference, its aim being to take decisions on labour questions which have been fully discussed and approved by those directly concerned, the employers and workers. At the present Conference 29 countries have sent complete delegations, including such far-distant States as Cuba and Argentina.

The Conference was formally opened by M. Fontaine (France), Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, whose great work for world labour legislation is undisputed, and, on the proposal of Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Senior British Government delegate, the Conference elected as its President M. Branting, the well-known Swedish statesman.

The Conference then split up into six Committees, composed of equal numbers of Government, employers' and workers' delegates, to discuss the different questions in detail and finally report to the full Conference. These six subjects are the four items on the agenda; night baking, the provision of facilities for the use of workers' spare time, accident compensation for alien workers, and weekly rest in glass factories; and two special reports, one on the prevention of anthrax and the other on world unemployment. The last report, showing the progress of the unemployment crisis in the various countries during the past three years,

gave rise to very important discussions in the full Conference.

The rest of the week was spent by the Committees in these studies, and the Conference as a whole met again during the following week to discuss the report of the Director of the International Labour Office, M. Albert Thomas, on its work and then the reports of the Committees as they are sent back to it. The question of reparations as connected with a lengthening of hours in Germany, was raised on the Director's Report.—(*League of Nations' Union.*)

In all nine women delegates attended. Three government representatives, five advisers to the government representation, and one adviser to the workers' representatives.

Conference on the Illegitimate Child.

The Conference on the Illegitimate Child in Legislature, summoned by the Six Point Group and the Nat. Council for Unmarried Mother and her Child, on June 19 (at which Mrs. Crawford represented St. Joan's P. and S. Alliance), proved full of interest and instruction, although unfortunately several of the advertised speakers were unable to be present. Mrs. McGuire, from New Zealand, explained the various points on which legislation in that Dominion gives better protection to the woman than our own, and Mr. Sherwood, the Recorder of Worcester, the one male speaker, explained very lucidly the position of legitimisation by marriage under Canon Law. The most instructive speech of the morning came, however, from Miss Gladys Marks, representing that progressive Dominion, New South Wales. The Government there does much through its hostels to facilitate matters for both mother and child immediately after child-birth, and a series of legal provisions makes it far easier than here to secure regular payments from the putative father. Moreover, he cannot, as here, wipe out accumulated indebtedness for his child by a short term of imprisonment. The speaker further made it clear that there had been absolutely no increase in illegitimacy since this beneficent legislation had been passed.

The Women of Chile.

An interesting lecture was given on Wednesday, July 2, under the auspices of St. Joan's Alliance, at 55 Berners Street.

Miss Fedden took the chair, and introduced the speaker, Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, recently returned from that remote part of the world.

Miss Douglas Irvine first spoke of the Indian women—kindly, honest, courteous, with grave faces and straight black hair. The men hunted and fought, while the women wove, tilled the soil, and carried on the household, and were guardians of the arts. The men were polygamous, and had as many wives as they could afford, on account of their usefulness and value. She touched on the machis, or witches, who were more than witches, in that they understood the curative values of herbs and were healers. The Spaniards came to Chile in 1550. Inez Swarez, the young widow, who accompanied the Spaniards to Chile, and was extremely brave and fearless, spent the latter part of her life in good works, and a chantry was built in her memory in one of the chief churches of Santiago.

The Spaniards introduced their civilization, and the Chilians of the present day are descendants of the intermarriage of the Spaniards and the Indians, though there are many Indians of pure breed and Spaniards of pure blood left. The Spanish women were guarded, and the towns were like garrisons for their protection.

They lived indolent lives, and were waited on and served by negro slaves. They were accomplished musicians and exquisite needlewomen, but were not educated like their brothers. The women married early and had big families. The life was dull, except for floods, wars and earthquakes. The women are devout Catholics, but the men are not earnest followers of their faith, and may be termed largely political Catholics.

The bi-moral standard is tolerated and the women acquiesce in it.

When nitrates were discovered in the country, the men became interested in speculation and commerce.

The Women's movement has now spread, and an agitation for women's rights is gaining ground.

Miss Douglas Irvine's article in the *Catholic Citizen* of February 1924, will give those interested further information of the present status of women in Chile.

Questions were asked, and the chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker, which was warmly responded to.

The Rights and Duties of a Citizen.

HENRY ELLIOT MALDEN, M.A.,

(Messrs. Methuen, 2/6.)

We welcome this new edition, the tenth, of Mr. Malden's concise yet comprehensive account of the English Constitution, and of the duties of a citizen towards the Nation and his responsibility in maintaining the Constitution handed down by his father. Mr. Malden has many wise things to tell us, so he must forgive us if we point out one pious fallacy which he puts forward. He tells us, very rightly, that voters should consider the personal character of the candidates who appear before them, and continues: "If every constituency returned the man who was really best known and most highly respected for his personal character in that constituency, it would not in the least matter by what party name the men so elected were called; a Parliament made up of such men would be a thoroughly good Parliament," p. 27. That is, of course, wrong; it would be a Parliament of good men, who might be very incompetent legislators. In fact, Mr. Malden is contradicting himself, for he tells his readers in the preceding paragraph that: "Voters should try and understand something about the merits of the great questions on which candidates will be called upon to decide if they get into Parliament. If they know nothing about these questions, they had better not vote at all." Here he is giving sound advice, which voters may do well to follow. It is undoubtedly essential that candidates for Parliament should be men and women of upright character, but special qualifications must also be added.

We recommend Mr. Malden's book to all citizens, especially to our newer citizens anxious to understand the responsibilities of a vote.

L. de A.

Maternal Mortality.*

Dr. Janet Campbell's Report to the Ministry of Health on Maternal Mortality, makes painful reading, disclosing as it does the unnecessary loss of life amongst mothers, which in this so-called civilised land is allowed to continue year after year.

In his preface to the Report, Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of Health, gives a summary of the problem. Out of not less than 700,000 mothers giving birth to children per annum, approximately 3,000 die in childbirth. A far greater number of these mothers are permanently injured or invalided as a result of childbirth. A great deal of suffering, and many lives, could be saved by proper attention. That is a fact which should be brought home to the general public, for the authorities who do know it seem disinclined to move. For Dr. Campbell tells that, while insanitary conditions have probably much less direct influence on maternal mortality than might be supposed, we can "with some confidence assign responsibility primarily to the adequacy, or otherwise of the professional attendance during pregnancy, and at the time of birth." First among her recommendations, Dr. Campbell places "Improvement in the quality of Professional attendance." She urges societies such as the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institutes, and others, to create that informed public opinion, without which no substantial progress can be made. She tells us that it should not be impossible "to overcome the financial and other difficulties involved in the building up of a complete maternal service." And that "It is recognised that the establishment of a comprehensive and efficient maternity service designed steadily to improve the standard of midwifery, and thus to eliminate the avoidable risks of child-bearing, is largely a matter of administration and finance." There has been little decrease in the last twenty years in the death-rate among women in child-birth, and England compares unfavourably with Germany, Norway, Italy, Sweden and Holland.

It seems incredible that this avoidable loss

* Report on Public Health and Medical Subjects. No. 25, Maternal Mortality. By Janet M. Campbell, M.D.M.S., One Shilling.

of life among mothers should be allowed to continue, and any woman reading this report, and it is to be hoped men also, must be filled with indignation. There is so much sentimental talk about the duty and the beauty of maternity, and yet so little value is placed on mothers performing this noble duty, that hundreds are allowed to die, when medical attendance could save them. What hypocrisy!

L. de A.

Legitimacy Bill.

On Friday, June 27, the Legitimacy Bill passed its third reading in the Commons, and has gone to the House of Lords. Thirteen members only were found to vote against the Bill. It provides that where the parents of an illegitimate child in England and Wales marry, their marriage shall legitimate that child. The Bill is to be retrospective. On the report stage, Mr. Rawlinson moved a clause to prevent the Bill applying to children whose father or mother was married to another person at the child's birth; the Bill should apply, he said, only to children whose parents were unmarried. It was round this clause that controversy raged, the amendment being ultimately rejected by 136 to 65. The supporters of the amendment feared that without this clause there was a risk that the Bill would increase divorce; others, while realising the complexities of the question, could find no reason for penalising the innocent child, the parents being allowed to regularise their position.

Separation and Maintenance Bill.

On July 4 the House of Commons concluded the report stage of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance Bill), and it was read a third time. We hope that this Bill, which has been long expected, may at last reach the Statute Book.

House of Lords and Peeresses.

Lord Astor is introducing a Bill into the House of Lords to allow Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the Upper House. This is another Bill which has the support of all women's societies, and we hope Lord Astor will succeed in breaking down the prejudices of his colleagues in the Lords.

Assembly of the League of Nations.

Mr. J. Harris asked the Prime Minister if he was now in a position to state who would be the representatives of Great Britain at the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations in September; and, if not, if he was considering the advisability of making the delegation non-party in character, and of following precedent in the appointment of a woman delegate? Mr. Clynes (The Lord Privy Seal) replied that the decision of His Majesty's Government on this important matter might have far-reaching consequences, and time must be allowed them to consider it in all its aspects. It was also necessary to consult with the Dominions. When his right hon. Friend was in a position to do so, he would inform the House.

We earnestly hope that Great Britain will lead the way by appointing a woman as full delegate this year.

Our Women M.P.'s.

We have received an interesting pamphlet published by the Women's Freedom League, entitled *British Women M.P.'s*. It gives biographical details of our eight women members, and of their political work. The writer is Mrs. D. M. Northcroft, whose booklet on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," we reviewed recently. The pamphlet can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League, price 4d.

Spanish Women and the Vote.

Spanish women are taking their new voting rights very seriously. The Catholic Society has established a new section to study municipal questions and prepare a programme for the next election. The law confers a municipal vote on women heads of families, and on all single women over twenty-three, even though living at home. We imagine

that married women are excluded for fear of home dissension, or are they supposed to be represented by their husbands? All parish priests of Madrid were summoned by their Bishop to a conference last May, to discuss the importance of all women voters being registered, and their interest awakened in their new duties.

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